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THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

It is an excellent thing for Baltimore that an organization on the lines of the Municipal Art Societies of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia has been formed under promising circumstances in Baltimore. The meeting at the residence of Mr. Marburg brought together a notable gathering of the culture and distinction of Baltimore, and the proceedings showed that the society begins its existence with the real interest and coöperation of the strongest men of the city. That it will be assisted by the ladies in practical ways seems quite certain.

The purposes of the new society were admirably stated in the address of Mr. Marburg, who showed the value of art as an element and inspiration in the life of a community. He did not overstate the truth when he said that "public art lends dignity and nobility to the life of the citizen." It is an educational influence that works upon all classes and conditions. The more beautiful we make the city the better we make it. The more artistic we make the people the higher the value of their products.

Dr. Gilman contributed a very interesting and hopeful talk. He showed what cities of Baltimore's class, and even cities much smaller, had done in Europe, and showed how possible it was for Baltimore to improve its appearance along all the lines of art and architecture. The great thing was to mold public opinion, and this society provides the means for the work. Certainly, it can count on the press, and it already has enlisted the other important influences, so that the labor should not be difficult.

Mr. Noel Wyatt, one of the ablest architects, makes an excellent suggestion in recommending that a memorial should be erected to Severn Teackle Wallis, and doubtless this may be among the future undertakings of the society. Mr. Edgar G. Miller, a real lover of art, and one of the finest connoisseurs of Baltimore, told what the Philadelphia society has done, and said he thought there are three thousand people in Baltimore who would be willing to pay five dollars a year each for the work of the society. This is a practical idea, and, if it can be carried out, it will assure an income for the organization, which income will be increased by larger sums from those who can afford to give more. Mr. Pennington, another leading architect, spoke very frankly against sky-scraping buildings, which are doing so much to destroy the artistic appearance of a city. Many regretted with him that more of these structures are going up. Practical suggestions by Judge Morris and others included the designation of degrees of membership, the advisability of a ladies' auxiliary and the broadening of the charter, so that the society may accept gifts, and possibly establish a museum in which these treasures may be collected.

Altogether, it was a most interesting and satisfactory meeting, and it will be sure to lead to valuable and permanent results for Baltimore.—*Baltimore American*.